

USE

The process is useful for treatment and chemical hardening of brick clays found in cold, temperate or sub-tropical climates as well as clays of marine origin, containing significant amounts of illites, vermiculites, chlorites and smectites.

EMBODIMENTS

At the start of stage (a), the alkali metal cation concentration is above 0.027 equivalents/liter water, and the sum of the concentrations of  $\text{OH}^-$ ,  $\text{SiO}_4\text{H}_3^-$  (orthosilicate) and  $\text{AlO}_4\text{H}_4^-$  (aluminate) anions is above 0.0345 equivalents/liter water.

Stage (b) is carried out at atmospheric pressure, at about 120°C for 2-12 hours under a steam partial pressure of 800 mbars or less. (23pp1501KJPDwgNo0/0).

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